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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st September 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI
Sept. 13th 1901.

Russian policy in Tibet. Russia thinks that if she can conquer India, she will be able to pay up her enormous public debt amounting to upwards of seven hundred and fifty crores of rupees. With this view she is advancing towards India slowly and with indomitable energy and perseverance. She tried to secure the alliance of the Amir of Afghanistan, but failed. She next joined the allies in China with the view of spreading her supremacy over the southern part of that country. But indications of peace in China have made her hopeless of attaining this object.

But Russia is not to be stopped. So long as she has life and her debt, she will not refrain from casting wistful glances at India. She is now trying to secure the friendship and alliance of Tibet, with the view of being able to spread her supremacy over the extensive region between Asia Minor and the Chinese frontier. If an alliance with Tibet is secured, Russia will begin to strengthen the Russo-Tibetan frontier, and thus improve the chances of her intended invasion of India. A Moscow paper says—“This alliance may, perchance, remove the necessity for such an attack if the English grasp the fact that we are not joking with them, and that the hour when the Russian bugle gives the signal to gather on the Kushk post is the beginning of England’s collapse in India.”

All this is certainly alarming to the English. The real object of the Dalai Lama’s recent mission to Russia is still in the dark. What horrors it will produce in the future is not yet known. If a communication can be effected between Russian Turkestan and the Chinese frontier, large Russian armies will be able to enter India through Afghanistan on the west, and by the way of Kashgar on the north. But we think that the fatuous expectation of the Russian Bear will never be realised. So long as the Indians love and revere the English, no other nation will be able to do them the slightest harm.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th September says that recently about one hundred and fifty Musalmans of Kharkusuma, a village in the Garbeta subdivision of the Midnapore district, committed serious oppressions upon the Hindus of the village on the ground that the latter had given shelter to a Musalman whom his co-religionists had determined to kill. The Musalmans severely beat every Hindu villager they met with, and attacked the houses of the Hindus, who could only save themselves by keeping their doors closed. It was not till night that information could be sent to the police and its help obtained. A few of the offenders have been arrested, but the rest have absconded.

MEDINI BANDHAV.
Sept. 4th, 1901.

3. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura], of the 8th September, says that the following are the causes of the inefficiency of the police administration:—

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 8th, 1901.

- (1) Employment of the police in procuring supplies for touring officials.
- (2) Employment of the police in clerical work, which leaves it less time for the work of watch and ward than is necessary.
- (3) The paucity of police officers, which stands in the way of a satisfactory investigation of cases.
- (4) The ultimate devolution of entire police work on chaukidars drawing a salary of only Rs. 4 a month.
- (5) Inadequacy of pay, which dissuades honest men of respectable families from entering the department.
- (6) Want of a detective police in the mufassal. The presence of a detective police must serve as a check upon offenders. Offenders have now nothing to fear, if they can please the ordinary police.
- (7) Want of supervision of cases sent up by the police by a judicial officer. In the Excise Department, all papers are supervised by a Deputy Magistrate, and a similar practice ought to prevail in regard to cases which are

sent up by the police. It would be for the Deputy Magistrate charged with this duty, to decide what case ought to be sent up and what case ought not to be. At present, it is the inability of the police to make this distinction which leads to the harassment of innocent persons in many cases and to a large number of accused persons getting their acquittal at the courts of Sessions and other courts.

4. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh], of the 10th September, complains of the following three classes of persons who have become a source of terror to the people of east Mymensingh:—

(1) Some elderly men in every village, who take upon themselves the role of peace-makers, and in that capacity undertake to settle every dispute, although their real object is to screen offenders and make a livelihood for themselves.

(2) The *lathials*, who ostensibly live as honest householders, but every now-and-then commit thefts, *badmashi*, high-way robbery, &c. These men also put up fishing dams across rivers from the month of *Aswin*, and harass boatmen.

(3) Some raiyats of *ijmali* zamindars who neither pay rent to their zamindars nor obey them. The police itself fears to enter the mahals in which such raiyats dwell.

The authorities should free the people of east Mymensingh from these three classes of men.

5. A Burdwan correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta], of the 11th September, says that a Brahman widow of Gopalpur, a village near the Rajbandh station on the East Indian Railway, was murdered in broad day-light. The police sent up some men for trial as murderers, but all of them have been acquitted. Does it speak well for the police that it failed to trace the real offenders, though the murder was committed in broad day-light?

6. The *Hitavali* [Calcutta] of the 13th September says that on the 6th Bhadra last a woman, named Basanta Kumari, aged fifteen, was forcibly carried away from her house in the village of Durgapur under the Begamganj thana, in the Noakhali district, by a number of Muhammadan *badmashes* during the absence of her husband, Ramkali, from home. On the next day Ramkali returned, and asked the village chaukidar to lodge information in the thana. But the chaukidar threatened him with social excommunication, and stopped him. He also realised an illegal gratification from Ramkali. Again, on the same day the young woman waded through breast-deep water to the house of a Muhammadan inhabitant of the village Kutabpur, a mile from Durgapur, who took pity on her and sent her home in a boat. Marks of violence were found on her person and clothes. But it is a matter of regret that the case has not yet been investigated by the police.

7. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 13th September feels extremely sorry and ashamed to inform its readers that a Kayastha, who died of cholera in the Chittagong dispensary, had his dead body buried by the police according to Government rule. The Indian's degradation has, indeed, come to its lowest point. European women nurse sick Musalmans! Hindus embrace the Musalman religion from want of food, and the dead bodies of Hindus are buried!!

8. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 14th September says that, though the attention of the Police Commissioner of Calcutta was more than once drawn by the writer to the impropriety of allowing a vulgar play like *Gupta Katha* to be acted in the Classic Theatre, he has not yet done anything to prohibit the performance. The play is so vulgar that on the first night of its performance the audience threw lighted cigarettes on the stage. It is said that the Detective Superintendent, Babu Krishna Charan Banerji, and the Detective Sub-Inspector, Babu Baidya Nath Mukharji, were both present in the theatre that night. The public are wondering that they found nothing objectionable in the play. Babu Krishna Charan is said to be unwilling to

CHARU MIHIR
10th Sept. 1901.

Badmashes, &c. in the Mymensingh district.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 11th, 1901.

HITAVALI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

NAVA YUG,
Sept. 14th, 1901.

The Calcutta Police and the Classic Theatre.

give his sanction to the publication of a Bengali translation of the *Mysteries of the Court of London*, but nothing deterred him from giving his sanction to a hateful play like *Gupta Katha*.

The writer has heard many private things about the play and about the reason of the police passing it. Mr. Halliday is now in charge of the Calcutta Police, and the public are certainly not thinking well of him for having passed this play. The apathy of the police in not properly examining plays intended to be acted is dissatisfying the public, and is bringing about a corruption of the taste of the native youth. A serious social mischief will be done if Government does not put a stop to the evil.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

9. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

Dismissal of a Court clerk. Babu Akshay Kumar Datta had served as a clerk in the office of the Joint-Magistrate of the 24-Parganas for thirty years when he was dismissed for the loss of a paper from a record on the 26th March last. Mr. Lyall, the then Joint-Magistrate, inquired into the case, and remarked that it was impossible to ascertain who was the real offender by whose fault the paper had been lost. Akshay Babu was an able clerk, and had a clear record during his thirty years' service. He appealed first to the Divisional Commissioner and then to the Lieutenant-Governor, but in vain. His petition to the Viceroy was not sent up by the Bengal Government.

Now that Akshay Babu has lost all hope of redress, we cannot refrain from saying a word or two in his favour. After a careful study of the papers concerned, we are convinced that he is innocent. But supposing that he was guilty, he should not have been dismissed after a blameless service of thirty years. He should have been made to retire on a suitable pension.

There is a distinct order of the Government of India that it is only for wilful and continued negligence that a public servant can be dismissed. It is incomprehensible why this order was not obeyed in Akshay Babu's case. Even his petition to the Viceroy was refused by the Bengal Government. What sort of justice this has been we do not understand. Akshay Babu is old, poor and helpless, and has to support a large family. He is so very poor that a grown-up son of his has recently died for want of proper medical care. We appeal to Lord Curzon to take up the case of this poor man. We quote below the essential part of Akshay Babu's petition:—

"7. That the following is a short statement of the facts of the case against him, so far as can be gathered from the records of the cases and the evidence taken at the enquiry held with reference to the loss of the record of confession. On the 2nd December 1897, one Madhab Mallick laid a complaint under section 379, Indian Penal Code, before the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Dhanes Chandra Roy, against Hem Chandra Roy Chowdhury and others, charging them with having forcibly cut his paddy. The Police was directed to make an enquiry, in course of which the accused Hem Chandra produced a registered deed of relinquishment, dated the 2nd August 1897, alleged to have been executed by the complainant. The complainant, however, denied execution of the deed, and when the Police took his thumb impression, it was found that it differed from that on the deed. The matter was reported to the District Magistrate who sanctioned prosecution of Hem Chandra and one Syama Charan Bachar for forgery under section 82 of the Registration Act, the Police being directed to send up an A form. During the enquiry held by the Police, the second accused, Syama Charan, made a confession on the 2nd January 1898, before an Honorary Magistrate, admitting that he had, on the 26th August 1897, at the request of Hem Chandra, the other accused, identified an unknown person as Madhab Mallick, the complainant, when the deed was registered at the Registration office. This record of confession, it is stated, together with the first information report was put up, for the first time, before the Joint-Magistrate on the 3rd January 1898, and since then these papers remained in custody of the Police till the 17th January when the final A form was received. On the latter date all the papers of the case including the said record of confession and the forged deed, which was the subject matter of the

case, were made over to the Peshkar in open Court. At the time, the mukhtear for the prosecution is said to have warned the peshkar to take special care of the document. When the Court broke up on that day, the peshkar sent the record to your memorialist *in charge of a Court peon*. Later on, the peshkar, as he himself said, sent a slip directing your memorialist's attention to the forged deed only and not to the record of confession, the existence of which he, the peshkar, was, according to his own statement, not aware of until the 4th February after the examination of some of the witnesses in the case had taken place), and asking him to keep the record of the case in the record-room. At the time when your memorialist received the record for custody, it was, as usual, not accompanied by a list of the papers contained in it, so that he had no means of ascertaining what papers there were upon the record. Your memorialist's attention having, however, been specially drawn to the forged deed, he placed the record in the record-room after satisfying himself that that document was in its proper place. The record was, in its usual course, taken to the Deputy Magistrate's Court on the 20th January, when the case was fixed for hearing. It was sent back to your memorialist after the Court broke up. It remained in the record-room, as before, till the 2nd February, when it was again taken back to the Deputy Magistrate's Court and returned to your memorialist after the day's proceedings were over, for writing out warrants against the absent witnesses. It appears from the peshkar's explanation that on the 2nd February there was a talk of this confession in open court, and that the prosecution was challenged to find out the confession on the record. Yet, strange enough, the peshkar did neither look for it, nor call your memorialist's attention to this matter when he returned the record to your memorialist for writing the warrants. Indeed your memorialist was altogether kept in the dark about the existence or the loss of this document until two days after, *i.e.*, 4th February, when the record was again taken to the Deputy Magistrate's Court. On the latter date the loss of the document was first brought to the notice of your memorialist. Enquiries were subsequently held with the result already stated.

"8. That the order of the District Magistrate is chiefly based upon the enquiries held by Mr. Lyall, the Joint-Magistrate, who stated in his first report, 'the loss was found out on the 4th or 5th February, and between the 18th and the 4th, the record was all along in the custody of the muharrir Akhoy Babu, or of Purna Babu, the peshkar, or of a Chaprassi (taking it from one to the other) whom neither can name. The blame, therefore, lies between Akhoy Babu and Purna Babu, but it is impossible to say on which both should be held responsible.' Then, again, in his report, dated 23rd March 1898, after referring to the fresh evidence placed before him, he said: 'This would apparently show guilty knowledge on his part. This is really the sum total of the fresh light procured, and I think it corroborates the impression that I had from the beginning that Akhoy Babu was the more likely offender. There is no real proof, however.' Thus it will be seen that, as a result of sifting enquiries, it was merely a case of suspicion unsupported by any tangible evidence against your petitioner, and the order of dismissal based upon them not only involves considerable hardship and injustice upon your memorialist, but is directly against the spirit of the standing orders of Your Excellency's Government, contained in circular No. 50-1682, dated November 13th, 1883, with which was forwarded to the Government of Bengal, for guidance, a copy of the Resolution recorded by the Government of Bombay on the subject of dismissal of native subordinates for misconduct. The following is an extract from paragraph 10 of the Resolution: 'If a man has earned, or nearly earned, his pension, his would not be a proper case for removal on suspicion. He would necessarily be an old servant of Government who has reached a time of life when it would be most improbable that he could turn to any other occupation for a livelihood. The sudden beggary of a man whose working days are drawing to a close is as serious an exercise of power as the penal sentence of a Court of justice, and should not be inflicted on haphazard principles. The Pension Rules, moreover, provide that a portion of the pension may be withheld from those whose service has not been entirely approved.'

"9. That the enquiry finally held by the District Magistrate himself does not carry the case against your memorialist any further. He says: 'Whether he

corruptly or by negligence lost the paper there is no evidence to show. But even supposing the lesser offence was committed, it is absolutely necessary that it should be dealt with severely; this is not the only case which has occurred, and it appears that the same party or persons were concerned in a similar loss of papers as are now concerned in this.' Later on, on the 28th March 1893, the District Magistrate, in rejecting your memorialist's application for review, observed as follows: 'It may be that there is no absolute evidence of intentional dishonesty, but there is abundant evidence of most culpable negligence with results which require that the punishment should be a clear warning to others, that such negligence cannot be tolerated amongst those who are entrusted with important records.' On both these occasions, it will be observed, the District Magistrate was pleased to admit in a manner that there was no evidence of any 'intentional dishonesty, corruption and of any offence involving moral disgrace or turpitude' on the part of your memorialist, for which the punishment of dismissal might, under the circular order cited above, be awarded to an old servant of Her Majesty's Government. While as regards negligence, your memorialist was not in any way concerned with the similar loss of papers referred to by the District Magistrate, and Your Excellency's memorialist, therefore, submits that no case of 'continued and wilful negligence' has, as required by the standing orders, either been made out against him.

"10. That Your Excellency's memorialist may be permitted to add by way of explanation of the only circumstance which, it would seem, went seriously against your memorialist, viz., his visit to the Barisa village, where the complainant and the defendants in the case resided; that this was altogether an innocent act on his part prompted by an honest desire to find out, if possible, any clue as to the loss of the document. As stated in paragraph 8 of this memorial, Mr. Lyall had suggested in his first report that the blame lay between the peshkar and Your Excellency's memorialist. The District Magistrate thereupon suspended both of them from service, and called upon them to show cause why they should not be dismissed. As soon as this order was passed, an anonymous petition was addressed to the District Magistrate in which it was covertly suggested that your petitioner was the party really to blame in the matter, and that this could be proved by pursuing a line of enquiry therein indicated. In the course of the investigation that followed in regard to this petition, one Haripada Chatterjee produced a paper, alleging that it was a copy of the missing document, and that he had received it from the clerk of the muktear for the accused. This man was questioned, but he denied all knowledge of it. The information about production of a copy of the missing document was given to your memorialist (who does not know English) by the peshkar who also suggested to him that if he went to Babu Amirta Lal Mookerjee of Barisa (a person known to both), he might obtain information as to how Haripada got possession of the copy of the document aforesaid. Your Excellency's memorialist readily acquiesced in the proposal, little knowing that it was a trick to compromise him, and honestly believing that he might really obtain a clue of the source from which the copy was obtained. But unfortunately for your memorialist this honest act on his part has been looked upon as a piece of evidence of his guilty knowledge, but your poor memorialist leaves it to Your Excellency's sound judgment to decide whether it admits of any such construction.

"That Your Excellency's Memorialist in conclusion craves leave to state that he has faithfully served Her Majesty's Government for thirty years, and has always preserved a faultless conduct during this long period of his service. That your memorialist has now grown too old and aged to find employment elsewhere nor has he been able with his poor income to lay by anything wherewith to keep up his family who are at present living upon alms occasionally given by any charitably disposed neighbours. The education of your memorialist's little children has been stopped short and the circumstances of your memorialist have been rendered extremely distressing."

10. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong], of the 13th September, hopes that the rumour about Mr. Lea's transfer from Chittagong will turn out to be unfounded. His transfer will do much harm to Chittagong. The Chittagong Association wanted to protest against the rumoured transfer, but Mr. Lea

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

Mr. Lea's rumoured transfer
from Chittagong.

dissuaded it from doing so, saying that his transfer had not yet been decided upon.

PRATIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1901.

11. Referring to the proceedings which are being taken by Mr. Lane, the Subdivisional Officer of Siliguri, against Babu Mashahar Sing, a respectable zamindar of Siliguri, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta], of the 16th September,

writes as follows :—

What an unheard of method, what an uncommon art, what unflinching perseverance, what unshaken resolution of the Deputy Magistrate to check a man! With what art is he contriving to prevent the accused from reaping the benefit of the justice dispensed by the High Court! O God! Have these men no heart, have they none to fear, none to oppose them in their arbitrary doings!

O *Chhota Lat*! What horror is taking possession of the heart of the people of Siliguri, not far from your summer residence at Darjeeling, in consequence of the doings of one of your executive officers, who is emboldened by the belief that even if the world goes to ruin, you will not touch the prestige of the executive officers! Has not information of this horror reached your ears, enervated as they have been by the enjoyment of sweet mountain breezes?

(d)—Education.

12. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla], of the 11th September, writes as follows :—

Merits of the existing University system in India.

It cannot be denied that the existing University system of education in India has produced a wholesome effect on the *morale* of the educated community. In comparison with the educated community of the past generation, the present educated community live on a higher plane of morality. Libertinism and drunkenness were, as it were, a part and parcel of the education of the former; while these are viewed with hatred and disgust by the latter. A grave complaint against the present educated community in India is its indifference to religion, and for this the godless teaching of the Universities is in part responsible. But its main cause is the want of a proper religious education in the family. The Indian home no longer gives religious teaching, and the Indian family no longer discourses on religious matters. The impetus which is imparted in childhood, fashions the future of a boy. The University is, therefore, not so much to blame for the godlessness of the educated community as the family and the guardians. The establishment of an institution for imparting religious education on the model of the Oxford University, is not feasible in India. Such an institution is impossible in a country full of different religious persuasions. Many people ask, what is the objection to universal religious teaching in the Universities? But do not the Universities give such education already? Are not religion, science and morality taught in them? Is not the poetry of Wordsworth and Tennyson instinct with high religion and high morality?

13. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th September says that the Calcutta University seems to be guided by the same

Appointment of examiners by the Calcutta University.

principles in appointing examiners as well as text-books. One is not surprised to learn that a man versed in history is appointed an examiner in science, and a man versed in science is appointed an examiner in literature by a University which appoints books full of errors as text books and an M.A. in Sanskrit as a member of the mathematical board of studies.

Mr. Küchler, of the Presidency College, was guilty of culpable neglect of duty as an examiner in the B.A. Honour examination of this year, and he has been rewarded by being appointed an examiner at the ensuing M.A. examination.

Babu Mahendra Nath Rai, M.A., B.L., is known as a good mathematician, and has no reputation as a good lawyer, but he has been appointed an examiner at the B.L. examination of this year.

The staff of examiners in Sanskrit at the next F.A. and B.A. examinations remains the same as in the last examinations, although a good deal of scandal took place over the Sanskrit papers at the last F.A. and B.A. examinations.

PRATIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1901.

Mr. Pedler undoubtedly possesses a profound knowledge of chemistry, but how does this single qualification fit him to be the examiner in English at the next B.Sc. examination? The examination in English will consist in testing the candidates' ability in explaining in good and clear language subjects in physics, chemistry, geology and mining, on which they will be required to write essays. Mr. Pedler has as yet given no proof that he is a good linguist or geologist, or that he has any proficiency in the science of mining. If no better examiner than Mr. Pedler was forthcoming in India, an examiner ought to have been found in England.

Mr. A. P. Begg, who, a few years ago, set at the Entrance examination some English sentences for correction, although they contained no inaccuracies, has been appointed an examiner at the F.A. examination of 1902.

The appointment of Mr. Peake as examiner in mathematics at the same examination, in supersession of the claims of mathematicians like Babus Gauri Sankar De and Bipin Bihari Gupta, is open to objection. Mr. Peake did not acquit himself well as a Professor of Mathematics in the Presidency College.

Babu Adhar Chandra Mukharji, who is a Professor of History, will be required to set questions in geography and physical science at the Entrance examination of 1902.

The appointment of Mr. J. N. Das Gupta as an examiner in English at the Entrance examination will encourage cramming among the boys, if in framing questions he follows the system on which he teaches. Mr. Gupta is one year appointed an examiner at the M.A. examination, another year at the F.A. examination and after that at the Entrance. But the claim of an able man like Mr. N. N. Ghose to be appointed an examiner is seldom considered.

14. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 17th September writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon on the effects of the University system of education.

Cramming is practised by the present race of students during the whole period of their scholastic career commencing at five years of age and ending at 25, and the natural result is that their wits are blunted instead of being sharpened. No mental faculty can be developed without exercise, and it is impossible that the faculties of reasoning and observation should be developed by a process of education in which the memory alone is exercised to the exclusion of all other faculties. Our boys, in a manner, bid adieu to their mother tongue when they leave their mothers' arms, and devote themselves heart and soul to the study of a foreign tongue under ill-educated and ill-paid teachers without any idea of the art of teaching. To train the infant mind is a task of no ordinary difficulty, and even experienced men, who know the human mind well, succeed but imperfectly in the task, if they do not adopt proper care and caution. What wonder then that our boys should become dull witted, and that their judgment should be perverted by such teaching as they get?

How many of the men of genius who figured in this country in the last century passed the present University examinations? How many men of the intellectual calibre of Raja Rammohan Roy, Sambhunath Pandit, Dwarkanath Mitra, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, Krishnadas Pal, Keshab Chandra Sen, Akshay Kumar Datta, Raja Rajendralal Mitra, Ramgopal Ghosh, Dr. Durgacharan Banerjee, Jagadis Tarkalankar, Jagannath Tarkapanchanan, Maulvi Abdul Latif, Bankimchandra Chatterjee, Kaliprasanna Ghosh, Michael Madhusudan Datta, Harischandra Mukharji, Manomohan Ghosh, Mr. W. C. Bonnerji, Dinabandhu Mitra and Krishnamohan Banerji have been turned out by the Calcutta University? Bankimchandra and Hemchandra, it is true, passed University examinations, but fortunately for them the examinations were not then so difficult, and colleges had not then been turned into shops. Graduates and under-graduates are now being turned out by the thousand. But far from being able to display any genius, they are not masters enough of either English or their own vernacular to be able to fully express their thoughts in it. From a consideration of all these facts, it is clear that the present system of education is not developing in the least the intellect of the country.

It is not easy to see how with such facts before him an intelligent observer like Lord Curzon could say that the present system of education has improved

BANGABHUMI,
Sept. 17th, 1901.

the people of this country both morally and intellectually. Certain English officials have an idea that the people of this country were formerly drowned in superstition which has disappeared before the light of English education. What we, however, think is that the people of this country are as superstitious now as they were before, only they have changed one set of superstitions for another. They no longer bow, it is true, to every tree or temple they see, but, in their overweening self-conceit, they have now come to look upon themselves as competent to solve the enigma of the whole universe. They used to busy themselves formerly with the outward observances of religion without any understanding of its inner essence, but they now turn up their nose at the very name of religion. We cannot, therefore, help thinking that Lord Curzon's opinion that the present system of education is doing more good than harm is a mistaken one. It is, however, true that a larger number of persons are now trying to acquire knowledge and to win applause by spouting the words of wisdom enshrined in the works of Western writers.

(e) — *Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th 1901.

15. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the removal of the following inconveniences in connection with the public ferry on the river Gorai below Kushtia town.

(1) The *ijardar* keeps only one boat, and that in a very delapidated condition, and employs only one *manji* to ply it. The work of plying the boat has, therefore, to be done by the passengers themselves. Another *manji* should be employed.

(2) A small hut should be built on the other side of Kushtia, as the sandy bank becomes too much heated at noon and is unbearable to passengers.

The *ijardar* makes sufficient profit from the ghat to enable him to make the necessary arrangements.

(g) — *Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

PRATINIDHI,
Sept. 11th, 1901.

16. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 11th September complains of the want of proper accommodation for passengers in the steamer plying at Brahmanbaria, and says that if better arrangements are not made by the Railway Company, the District Board's grant should be discontinued.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 12th, 1901.

17. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September says that the ticket office in the Bainchi station on the East Indian Railway, is not opened before a train has almost steamed in. It becomes very hard for people to cross the overbridge and platform within a very short time with children, women and luggage.

(h) — *General.*

PRATINIDHI,
Sept. 11th, 1901.

18. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 11th September says that although Mr. Ibbetson is junior to Mr. Cotton by three or four years, yet the claim of the latter has been disregarded and the former has been appointed Home Member. The general rule is to take Home Members from among Chief Commissioners, and make Home Members Lieutenant-Governors. This rule was followed in the cases of Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir John Woodburn. Mr. Ibbetson will, therefore, succeed Sir John Woodburn in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal in defiance of Mr. Cotton's seniority. Mr. Cotton's sincere love for the natives, sympathy with the poor coolies, love of truth and independence of mind are his obstacles on the path of his promotion. For while it cannot be said that Mr. Cotton is wanting in ability, it must be stated without fear of contradiction that among the present Civilians he possesses the best knowledge of Bengal.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September writes as follows:—
The Excise Department. When the Excise Department was first created nearly twelve years ago, Mr. Westmacott ruled that no detective officer of excise should be allowed to serve in one place for

more than three or four months. But we find no good in keeping this rule still in force. When Mr. Westmacott made this rule the abkari settlements were in the hands of the Excise Sub-Inspectors. But now such settlements are conducted under rules made by the Excise Commissioner and the Board. Hence Mr. Westmacott's rule no longer possesses the utility which it once had of checking improper connections between abkari vendors and Excise Sub-Inspectors which might be detrimental to the Government revenue. Mr. Westmacott's rule should be repealed for more than one reason. *Firstly*, there is no use of harassing the Sub-Inspectors by frequent transfers. *Secondly*, frequent transfers cause unnecessary expenditure of public money. *Thirdly*, frequent transfers prevent the Sub-Inspectors from acquiring good local knowledge, and thus becoming successful in the work of detection.

Again, promotions in the Excise Department are regulated by the no-conviction no-promotion principle. The man who can procure the largest number of cases gets the first promotion regardless of seniority.

If detection of cases be the only recommendation to promotion, what is the use of employing respectable, well-educated and highly paid men in the department? Men worth eight or ten rupees a month may do the work as well if not better. Is it not unjust not to regulate promotions by seniority as is done in every other public department?

Cases can be easily fabricated by detective officers, if they only desire to do so. They can bribe people to appear in Courts as accused persons, and as fine is the only punishment provided for such cases, such people can be easily procured.

One of our correspondents writes that on an Excise Sub-Inspectorship having recently fallen vacant in Angul, the Excise Commissioner appointed a new man to the post instead of filling the vacancy by promotion. Mr. Earle is in the habit of appointing new men in this manner to posts falling vacant under him. This is contrary to the recognised practice in all other departments.

20. A correspondent of the same paper writes from Brahmanbaria, Tippera, that postmen in the Tippera district nowadays get only Rs. 2 each as boat-money while formerly they used to get Rs. 4 each. The cause of this reduction of boat-money is unknown. Court-peons get Rs. 10 each as boat-money. Has this difference between postal-peons and court peons been created because the boat-money of the latter is realized from litigants? No postal peon can procure a boat at Rs. 2 a month. This is the reason why irregularities frequently occur in the distribution of letters, &c., in the villages. The attention of the postal authorities should be directed to this matter.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

21. A Kola correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 11th September says that the breach caused last year in the Rupnarain embankment near Kola, in the Midnapore district, has not yet been repaired, and is causing great damage to the crops in the neighbouring villages. At every new or full moon high tide, the fields of these villages become submerged, and serious damage is caused to the newly planted paddy. The breach in the embankment of the Cossye near Panshkura has also caused a large area to be flooded. In fact, the villages near Kola, which reaped no crops last two or three years, expect no crops this year also. As the villagers are mostly poor cultivators, they are already feeling the pinch of scarcity, and are hardly getting one meal a day.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Sept. 11th, 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th September says that Mr. Ibbetson will most probably succeed Sir John Woodburn in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. Mr. Ibbetson is a strong-minded man, but he is obstinate and self-willed. If such a man becomes the ruler of Bengal,

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1901.

will the opinion of the educated and enlightened Bengali be counted for anything? In this connection the name of Mr. Cotton naturally rises in every one's mind. Mr. Cotton is senior to Mr. Ibbetson, and has the ability to govern a province like Bengal which has received the enlightenment of Western civilization. He will complete 35 years of his service in July next. He has, therefore, no hope of sitting on the Bengal *gaddi*. Many people think that, noble courageousness and independence of mind are the things which stand in the way of his being made the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He incurred the disfavour of his superiors by opposing the Viceroy's proposal to appoint only Europeans and Eurasians to the Assam Provincial service, and by upholding the cooly cause. Again, the planter community in Assam are showering opprobrium on his head because he wrote in his last Administration Report that the Magistrates in Assam do not always do justice to the coolies. Can it be glorious for the English if their subjects think that an officer who loves justice and becomes popular is sure to have his prospects darkened?

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 14th, 1901.

23. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 14th September, says that, what with the support of the Viceroy, with the advice of the *Pioneer* to introduce tea-drinking in the Native States, and with energetic action on their own part, there can be no doubt that tea-planters will succeed in introducing tea-drinking among the Indian masses. But leaving aside all religious considerations, the writer will ask the *Pioneer* if Western political economy approves of the introduction of a luxury like tea-drinking among a people who can hardly get one meal a day and among whom famine is making perpetual havoc.

BANGAVASI.

24. The same paper says that Mr. Cotton's Immigration Report has proved gall and wormwood to the tea-planters, who are holding meetings in several places and condemning Mr. Cotton, in harsh language. They are charging him with partiality and with ignorance of the circumstances of the country, and are saying—"It would be difficult to imagine a more biassed utterance from one in the high capacity of the Chief Commissioner than Mr. Cotton's survey of the relations between employer and employed." They have, in a manner, called Mr. Cotton a liar. Hear what they say:—"Incidents which may support Mr. Cotton's views have been picked out and painted in their darkest colour." Does not this mean that Mr. Cotton has exaggerated facts? This is something very hard. Mr. Cotton is the representative of the Sovereign and may, therefore, be himself called the Sovereign. And this harsh language to him! The conduct of the tea-planters has, indeed, made the subject people very uneasy. Englishmen are their teachers, and if the teachers themselves find fault with the Sovereign, how are the pupils to keep their head steady? It is now for the Viceroy to effect a satisfactory solution of the whole question.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 4th, 1901.

25. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore], of the 4th September, is of opinion that floods in the rivers Barabalong and Suvanarekha in district Balasore have done a great deal of good to the standing rice crop that was in urgent need of water. The people of the Puri district have derived similar benefit from floods in the rivers Mahanadi and Kathjuri, though those lands that were protected by embankments got no such benefit.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Sept. 4th, 1901.

26. Referring to the proposal of Australia that Indians and other foreigners should be excluded from trading in that island, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra], of the 4th September, suggests that the Indian Government should take note of the fact and do the needful.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Sept. 7th, 1901.

27. Referring to the proposal of the Burma Government that men engaged in the manufacture of salt in that Province should not be disturbed in any way, and the support which that proposal received from the Government of India, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack], of the 7th September, suggests that the Bengal Government should carefully study the arguments of the Burma Government, and take early steps to revive the salt manufacture industry of Orissa.

28. Referring to the life-like statue of the Raja of Bânra, prepared at a cost of Rs. 30,000 by a London artist, the same paper points out that it is one of the several means by which foreigners are supported at the expense of the Indians. The writer hopes that the Manager of the fund raised for the Calcutta Victoria Memorial Hall will see his way to encourage Indian artists, for it is in contemplation to furnish that Hall with a large number of statues, pictures, engravings, &c.

29. The same paper regrets to learn that the ploughing machine, invented by Ram Charan Karmakar, which has the merit of breaking ground without the assistance of bullocks, and which is well suited to the needs of Bengal agriculture, cannot be used for the benefit of the public for want of funds, as the inventor is a poor man, and is therefore unable to manufacture the required number of machines for sale to the public. The writer hopes that the Bengal Agricultural Department will take the inventor under its protection and patronise him in every possible way.

30. Referring to the budget speech of Lord George Hamilton, the same paper points out that it is useless to blame the Indian money-lenders, when the land settlement in India is so heavy and the sale law so exacting and cruel. The Indian peasant has no other means of saving his stock except by running to the money-lender, who, though exacting, is certainly a saviour. The writer suggests that a Parliamentary Committee be appointed to enquire into the nature, incidence and consequences of the land tax, the Road and Public Works cesses, the water-rates and various other taxes, affecting the landed interests in India.

31. A correspondent of the same paper, by name, Kasinath Mahapatra, informs the public that the various *tirthas*, such as Kurukshetra, Asoka Kunda, Brahma Kunda and Gouri Kunda in Bhuvaneswar in district Puri are in a wretched state, and the pilgrims, who resort to these places, are mortified to find that these sacred relics of the past have fallen an easy prey to the corroding influence of time and weather. The correspondent hopes that the Bhuvaneswar Temple Committee, aided by the charitable Hindu public, will do something to remove the complaint.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

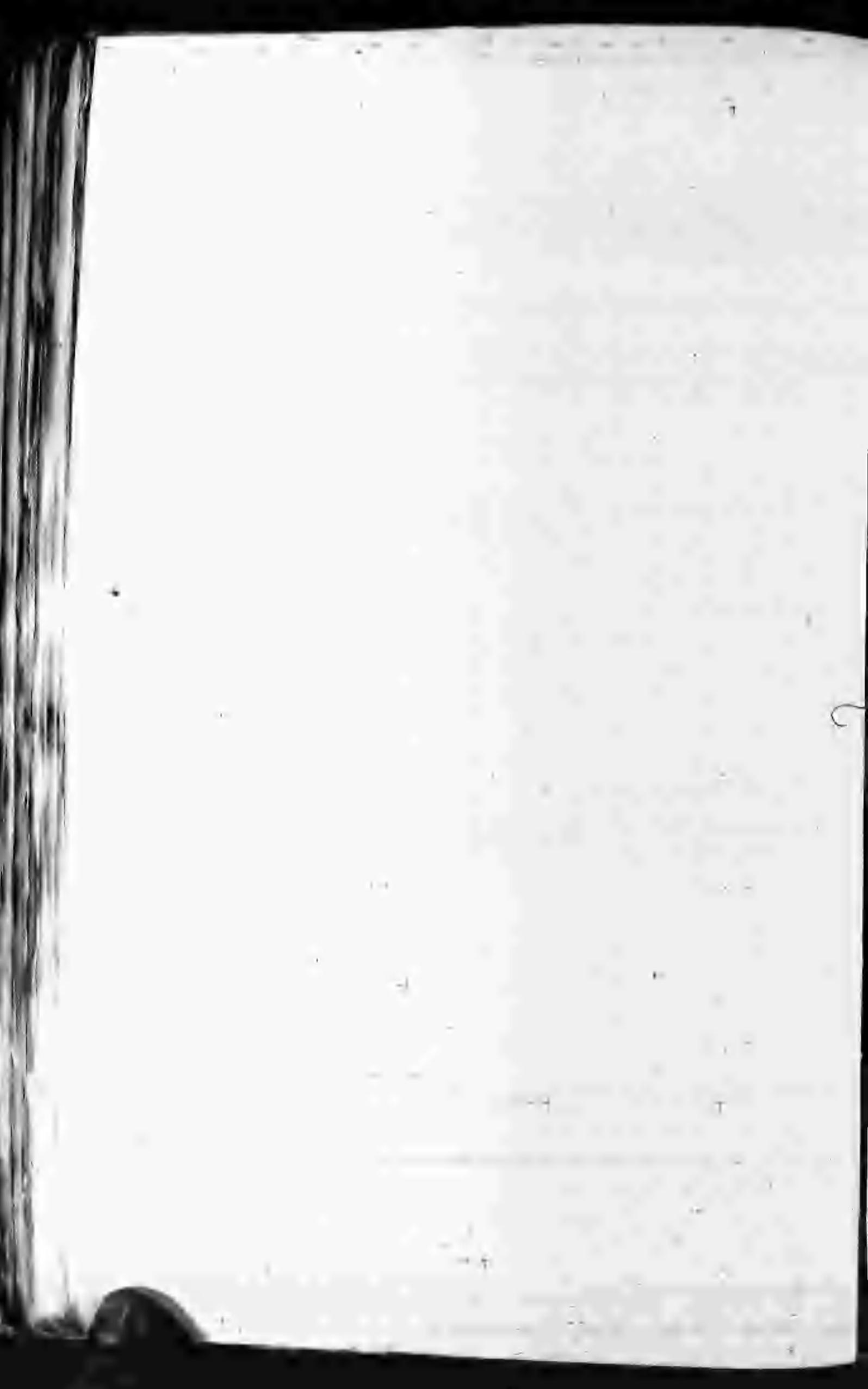
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st September, 1901.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 21st September 1901.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2389. Referring to the result of the Gaya rioting case in the High Court, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the Sessions Judge of Gaya unjustly convicted and sentenced to transportation for life 19 persons without ascertaining the exact degree of their offence. But for the High Court, four innocent men would have been transported for life.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
13th Sept. 1901.

2390. In connection with the Samastipur assault case, now pending before the High Court, the same paper complains that Mr. Birley, the Subdivisional Officer, and the Police Inspector were responsible for 11 innocent men being sent up and put to trouble and humiliation, because Mr. Edwards did not know the names of his assailants.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th Sept. 1901.

The trying Magistrate is also accused of being prejudiced towards the accused.

2391. The *Bengalee* draws the early attention of Government to the alleged high-handedness of the Subdivisional Officer of Magura, and expresses the hope that the Magura people will be relieved of his regime.

BENGALEE,
13th Sept. 1901.

In a recent case under section 145, Indian Penal Code, in which the Dighapatia Raj and Babu Asutosh Goswami, of Serampore, were the parties, the Magistrate showed a decided bias against the defendants and hampered their defence in many ways. He cut down what should have been an elaborate enquiry, peremptorily ordered the defendant's naib, who was instructing the pleaders for the defence, to sit aloof or leave the Court, and requested the defence to reduce their list of witnesses, threatening in case of refusal to do it himself. This being opposed to the provisions of the law, the officer has proved himself unfit to administer the law.

2392. The *Bengalee* appeals to Sir John Woodburn to look into the case of Babu Mashahar Singh of Siliguri, who with everybody directly or indirectly connected with him, is being oppressed and harassed by the Subdivisional Magistrate.

BENGALEE,
13th Sept. 1901.

Already more than half-a-dozen of his men have been arrested on different charges, and are all but one rotting in *hajat*.

One of these, Jagheswar Singh, seems to be specially in the bad graces of the authorities. He has ordinarily to cook for all the prisoners, and once in an altercation with the Magistrate was shoe-beaten and kept handcuffed for three nights. Mashahar Singh's wife has now been arrested on a charge of abduction and confinement, and the circumstances connected with this arrest suggest the idea that it was actuated by the Magistrate's ill-will towards her husband. Additional colour is lent to this view by the fact that the Magistrate was leaving the town without notice on the very date fixed for the hearing of the case.

EAST,
14th Sept. 1901.

2393. The *East* complains that Mr. Harward, the Sessions Judge of Dacca, has of late become very irregular in his attendance in Court, with the result that numerous cases are adjourned from day to day, and jurors and witnesses are subjected to great inconvenience and distress.

In some sessions cases the Judge disagreed with the unanimous verdict of not guilty returned by the jury, and expressed his intention of referring the matter to the High Court, but nothing has yet been done, and the unfortunate prisoners are rotting in jail over three months now.

In many criminal appeals heard in March or April last, judgment still remains undelivered, although some of the prisoners have been liberated after serving their full term in jail.

2394. The *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that a change in the constitution of the Calcutta Small Cause Court is necessary for public convenience and the speedy dispensation of justice, as also to relieve the block in the High Court business. An increase

HINDOO PATRIOT,
14th Sept. 1901.

in the territorial jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court, as well as the trial by it of all suits up to the value of Rs. 5,000, will bring about the desired end. It is also suggested that the Small Cause Court should be converted into a court of record.

The Judges, who are thoroughly capable men, may be safely vested with the increased power and no large addition to their numerical strength will be needed. Appeals from their decisions should be allowed, and heard in the Appellate side of the High Court.

The transfer of insolvency cases will also relieve the pressure of work in the High Court.

These measures will result in a great saving of time and money to the public.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Sept. 1901.

2395. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is aware of the severity with which Indians are treated if they intrude into a railway carriage specially reserved for Europeans, but relates that, at Purulia, a man was criminally prosecuted and fined for having, through ignorance, used a bathing ghat set apart for Europeans. A local pleader felt the absurdity of the proceedings so keenly that he paid the fine from his own pocket.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Sept. 1901.

2396. The punishment of the accused in the Patna riot case will, says the same paper, have rather a disastrous than a wholesome effect upon the people, for there are grave doubts as to whether there was any riot at all. Punishment was awarded upon purely police evidence which in such cases is not absolutely reliable, the police being the complainants. The people came in procession to amuse themselves, or perform a religious duty, and found themselves in jail on account of the folly of the Government in sending a European lad to perform an act which requires tact, experience and wisdom.

The *Muharram* is a Muhammadan festival, but mostly Hindus have been punished.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Sept. 1901.

2397. The same journal condemns the system of administering criminal justice in India, as it is not humane and does not agree with what obtains in England. The universal and bitter cry in India is to save the people from the vagaries and cruelties of criminal justice. A feeling of horror has been evoked in the native mind, and the Indian subject of the King has no love for the police, or the Magistracy, nor for the laws enacted for their protection.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
17th Sept. 1901.

2398. The *Indian Empire* complains of Indians being excluded from partaking in the good treatment accorded by the judiciary in their dealings with Europeans. Even in a non-bailable offence case, bail is secured to him on the extraordinary ground that jails have no accommodation for European undertrial prisoners.

It is surprising, says the *Empire*, that this tendency should be directed to the servants of Europeans as well. In a charge of theft brought against the syce of a Captain Powell at Silchar, Assam, the latter would not allow his servant to be arrested and the Extra Assistant Commissioner instead of ordering a warrant for the culprit's arrest, simply wrote to the Captain to produce the man when required.

The accused was fined Rs. 15 only.

(d)—Education.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th Sept. 1901.

2399. Commenting on the purely official constitution of the Educational Conference, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asserts that the people should be freely taken into confidence, as they are vitally interested in the subject under consideration, and might offer suggestions that would be of value. The newspapers are silent in

this respect owing to ignorance of the Government's intentions. If cramming is to be avoided, the function of universities should be only to impart sound education. The obtaining of degrees should be made as easy as possible, and Government should choose its own way of selecting men when needed.

2400. The decadence of the *Bhadralok* classes, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, is due to the system of education prevailing in India, and the Educational Conference should bear this fact in mind. To pass an examination the student is burdened with too many subjects and too many books on each subject. This coupled with the fact that these works are all written in a foreign language, forms a task which is certain to break down even the most robust student. The required percentage of attendance in college lectures is also an unnecessary restriction upon the healthy exercise of mind and body.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Sept. 1901.

2401. The *Indian Mirror* agrees with Lord Curzon that no system of education can be really effective unless it rests upon a religious foundation, and suggests the introduction in schools of such Hindu religious books as the "Bhagavat Gita," "Upanishads," etc., for their contents will not offend the religious susceptibilities of any particular denomination. Should, however, there be any objection to them, it is suggested that the sublime teachings of all religions, without the least taint of sectarianism, may be compiled under the supervision of a Committee composed of representatives of different religious denominations, and introduced into Indian schools and colleges.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th Sept. 1901.

The *Mirror* is glad that Bishop Welldon's ambitious and visionary project of introducing the Bible into Government educational institutions has fallen through, for the British Government owes all its strength and success to their wise policy of non-intervention in regard to religious faiths, a blessing which the Indian people vastly appreciate.

Teachers can do more than books as regards moral training, but morality divorced from religion has no substantial basis. The education of the Hindu youth must be spiritual.

2402. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* enquires why drill has been made by the Calcutta University authorities a compulsory part of school work. The manner in which boys are tortured in the name of drill is deplorable, for after six hours' school-work on one meal in 12 hours, such hard exercise is fatal to health.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Sept. 1901.

It is suggested that some lighter form of exercise be substituted for the present "neck-break outlandish affair," and that only in such schools where the majority of boys can afford substantial food. The drill should be immediately after tiffin hours, and those who have not had food should be exempted.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

2403. The *Behar Herald* draws attention to the state of the Jamalpur Municipality in consequence of Ward Commissioners and rate-payers having no control or voice in the improvements of the wards and bustees. The Chairman lives mostly at Howrah, and the Vice-Chairman has plenty of official work to do.

BEHAR HERALD,
14th Sept. 1901.

Money is being wasted over improvements and embellishments in the European quarter, but the native quarter is quite neglected and filthy, the drains being choked with rank vegetation.

2404. Referring to a rumour afloat that the Divisional Commissioner is desirous of putting an end to Local Self-Government in Hooghly, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses a hope that Mr. Inglis, the District Magistrate, who is a friend of the natives, will persuade Mr. Carstairs to allow an Indian Chairman to be elected this time. The Commissioners are advised to elect an experienced Chairman who will put the municipality in order.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Sept. 1901.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BENGAL, 14th Sept. 1901.

2405. The *Bengalee* again complains of the grave scandal caused by the distinction made in the treatment of third and higher class passengers on railways, and appeals to Lord Curzon to take up the matter. Third class passengers, though they contribute the bulk of the earnings derived from passenger traffic, are treated too often like dumb driven cattle, the railway underlings behaving with positive discourtesy and insult.

An instance of this has been furnished by a gentleman who visited Howrah station on the 6th instant at the time of the departure of the loop mail. Third class ticket-holders were insulted by a Eurasian ticket-collector, who abused and handled some of them very roughly.

This comes of employing uneducated and ill-bred persons who have no sense of their responsibilities or the duty they owe to passengers.

It is only on the Eastern Bengal State Railway that there are Indian and some Eurasian ticket-collectors who are apparently selected with care.

BENGAL, 18th Sept. 1901.

2406. The *Bengalee* is grateful to Mr. Holmes, the District Traffic Superintendent on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, for the speedy and fitting steps he has taken to punish the Eurasian Ticket Collectors who grossly insulted a Eurasian Lady passenger at Baliaghata. Their misconduct might be traced to the appointment of boys who have not yet reached the age of discretion, and to the want of supervision exercised by the Head Ticket Collector of Baliaghata, who is an old and physically infirm man, possessing the use of only one leg.

Ticket collectors punished.

the speedy and fitting steps he has taken to punish the Eurasian Ticket Collectors who grossly insulted a Eurasian Lady passenger at Baliaghata. Their misconduct might be traced to the appointment of boys who have not yet reached the age of discretion, and to the want of supervision exercised by the Head Ticket Collector of Baliaghata, who is an old and physically infirm man, possessing the use of only one leg.

(h)—General.

BENGAL, 14th Sept. 1901.

2407. In the opinion of the *Bengalee*, a barrier seems to have arisen latterly which has arrested the progress of Bengal Bengali Civilians at a discount. Civilians beyond a Membership of the Board of Revenue or a Judgeship of the High Court. The chance of Mr. Cotton surmounting this barrier seems now very improbable, although he is the one officer ideally fit for the *musnud* of Belvedere. The system of boy cotting and experience is very unsatisfactory, and if such requisites are not considered indispensable in a Provincial ruler, it would be far better to import first class men from England—men with free and unbiased minds, and with correct and up-to-date ideas to administer the provinces.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th Sept. 1901.

2408. With regard to certain remarks of the Government of India suggesting that some sort of connection existed between Mr. Pennell and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that journal in defence of the accused officer emphatically denies the imputation. A copy of the Noakhali judgment was officially asked for and granted by Mr. Pennell, only after it had been delivered in Court. Mr. Pennell was very much annoyed at seeing instalments in the *Patrika* before he had permitted a copy to be furnished, and suspended one of his clerks for it.

Its publication before being delivered at the High Court was due to the fact that he brought it himself to Calcutta.

BENGAL, 18th Sept. 1901.

2409. Commenting on the Bengal Government's lengthy letter to the Government of India on the Noakhali case, the *Bengalee* expresses admiration at the discreet silence of the latter on some of the most startling and material facts which were brought to light by Mr. Pennell. Indians in Government employ are dismissed for offences which dwindle to nothing when compared to the offence committed by Messrs. Corbett and Bradley, yet in spite of the strictures passed by the Government of India and the opinion of the Governor-General as to the inadequacy of the punishment, these officers were retained in the service and given promotions.

The Government and the Noakhali case.

“Is it to be wondered at that people are not satisfied with the police, and with the union of executive and judicial functions?”

The judgment of Justices Amir Ali and Pratt, which has been made so much of in the Government letter, is erroneous, anomalous and illogical as shown by Mr. Geidt's judgment in which the finding of facts is the same as in

Mr. Pennell's judgment. Mr. Geidt's judgment has been upheld by the High Court.

As regards the recommendation for Mr. Pennell's dismissal, the Indian section of the community deeply regret that one so able, so fearless, so keenly animated by an unconquerable love of justice should be dismissed from a high position, where it would have been in his power to have done them much good.

III.—LEGISLATION.

2410. Referring to a case under the Age of Consent Act which has taken place at Barisal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that since the passing of the Act not more than a dozen or so cases have taken place among a population of 30 crores, a fact which proves the non-existence of the evil and the inutility of the Act. India is a land of experiment where legislators try their hand at legislation.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 16th Sept. 1901.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

2411. Reverting to the expulsion of Mr. Roy from Tippera, the *Hindoo Patriot* styles the incident a storm in a teapot, and justifies the action of the Political Agent in refusing to hold a public enquiry in the presence of Mr. Roy. If the latter had entered the independent territory again, he would have been re-expelled by the Maharajah, and the Government cannot possibly humiliate a Sovereign Prince or alienate the feelings of one of its most trusted and faithful allies for the sake of a junior Barrister, particularly when justice is not on his side.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 17th Sept. 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2412. The Arrah correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports harrowing tales of distress from villagers who have been suffering from the havoc caused by the Sone flood. Very many have lost their *bhados* crops as well as their dwelling-houses with all their contents. Some villages were swept clean of all houses, while in others 50 to 75 per cent. have been washed away. Destitute people are seen in the town begging for help. A local relief fund has been opened, but will be quite inadequate and of no material good, unless sufficient help comes from the Government and other places.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 17th Sept. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2413. Commenting on Lord George Hamilton's hostile attitude towards the Congress, the *Bengalee* contrasts it with the official recognition of a Governor-General of India, that the Congress was a perfectly legitimate movement.

BENGALÉE, 13th Sept. 1901.

The Secretary of State's condemnation of the Congress in his Budget speech was as one-sided as it was unworthy of the highest Indian official, who ought never to utter a word without a full sense of his responsibility. There is no truth in the statement that supporters of the movement are closely identified with the Indian money-lending class in particular, as it is a Congress of all India and includes the borrowing classes. It is the progress made towards this high ideal that is resented by Lord George Hamilton and officials of his type, for the Congress has taught the country to think that the bureaucratic regime which has been established in India is not the most perfect, and that our officials are not infallible.

2414. There are indications on all sides, says the *Bengalee*, that Muhammadans are making a distinct approach towards the Congress movement. This change in their attitude has created quite a ferment at Aligarh which place has hitherto been the centre and focus of the public opinion of the Muhammadan community of Upper India. The death of Sir Sayyid Ahmad and

BENGALÉE, 17th Sept. 1901.

Mr. Theodore Beck has removed the two men who ably guided and controlled the public mind of the Muhammadans, and Mr. Theodore Morrison rushes to the arena as the champion of what seems a losing cause.

In a letter to the *Pioneer* the latter recognizes the existence of unrest among the Muhammadan community of India which must find an outlet in the formation of a separate political organization, or in association with the Congress movement. The first proposal is regarded by him as out of the question and the second does not meet his approval.

BENGALIE,
13th Sept. 1901.

2415. The attack now being made by the planters of Assam upon the much-abused Chief Commissioner is likened by the *Bengalee* to that made 41 years ago by the indigo-planters of Bengal, upon Sir John Peter Grant, the then Lieutenant-Governor. The two cases are parallel, for the latter, like Mr. Cotton, felt it his duty to protect the cultivators from the oppressions practised upon them by the planters, with the result that the latter memorialized the Governor-General in Council, alleging that the Lieutenant Governor had since his appointment acted in such a way as to throw nearly the whole of the indigo districts, and specially Krishnagar, into confusion, and that the indigo-planters would be irretrievably ruined if nothing was done to remedy the system of misrule.

The charges against Mr. Cotton are but mere echoes of those brought against Sir John Peter Grant. The latter disproved them all, and the Government of India upheld his action which was "marked by a sound, temperate and impartial judgment."

It is hoped that Lord Curzon will, like his illustrious predecessor, uphold the policy of righteousness so steadfastly pursued by Mr. Cotton in the face of such serious opposition, which presents a queer object-lesson in loyalty to the educated section of the Indian people.

INDIAN NATION,
16th Sept. 1901.

2416. Commenting on the behaviour of the planters of Assam towards their Chief Commissioner, the *Indian Nation* pronounces the tone of the resolutions passed at their meeting to be not merely disrespectful, but insolent and seditious. In substance they are a gross libel on the head of the local administration, and the language used is most vile and scurrilous, and calculated to bring the Government of India and the Secretary of State, the conviction will gain ground that there are separate laws for white and black, and that Englishmen may say or do anything they please and terrorise the Government with impunity.

Planters rampant.

BENGALIE,
14th Sept. 1901.

2417. The *Bengalee* advocates the formation of another International Exhibition in Calcutta so that all the latest discoveries of human ingenuity and developments of human enterprise may be focussed into one centre to enlighten and instruct the stay-at-home Indian people. In Europe and America the progress has been phenomenal in all departments of industrial and commercial life; and the latest appliances of science and art have been wonderfully improved.

Desirability of an International Exhibition.

BENGALIE,
14th Sept. 1901.

2418. The same paper quotes a passage from Mr. J. M. Maclean's (late M. P. for Cardiff) "Personal reminiscences of life in the House of Commons" in which that gentleman testifies that India "was never more profoundly disaffected to British rule than at present, and never governed with less regard for the interests and wishes of the subject races; and that it is only the hopelessness of resistance which prevents the outbreak of formidable popular insurrections."

The second of these complaints is endorsed by the *Bengalee* because now-a-days native opinion is regarded as the least important factor in shaping the policy of Government.

According to Mr. Maclean this is due to Parliamentary apathy, but in the opinion of the *Bengalee* the rulers are jealous of the growing power and influence of the native and naturally seek every opportunity of putting him down. Parliamentary interference occasionally proves a boon of doubtful value, as shown in the case of the cotton duties; and as a check upon the "despotism" of the Government in this country or the India Office, it is often illusory.

2419. Writing on the contemplated suppression of anarchism, the *Hindoo Patriot* suggests that the Governments of the countries where such dreadful lawlessness exists should appeal to the people to co-operate with them in putting down this monstrous crime, and Vigilance Committees should be formed to watch the movements of criminals and their associates. All civilized countries should be made free of Nihilism, Socialism and Anarchism.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
17th Sept. 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 21st September 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

